

VZCZCXRO6389
OO RUEHDE
DE RUEHLO #0189 0181822
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 181822Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7067
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0781
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU PRIORITY 0201
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0995
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 2620
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 0509
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0762
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0616
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2530
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 3113
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 3597
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1104
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 0231
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0168
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1094

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 000189

SIPDIS

NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/18/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPRP](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [IR](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: EL BARADEI ON HIS TEHRAN VISIT: SEES IRANIANS AS
"RELAXED," WITH "PLAUSIBLE" ANSWERS

REF: LONDON 103

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard Mills for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C/NF) Summary. IAEA Head Mohammed El Baradei told UK Foreign Secretary Miliband January 17 that during El Baradei's visit to Tehran last week Iranian officials appeared "very relaxed" and seemed to be feeling no pressure on the nuclear file. Miliband's conversation with El Baradei reportedly included pushback by Miliband on El Baradei's view of the contamination issue. End Summary.

Suspension: El Baradei Sees No Hope

12. (C/NF) El Baradei told Foreign Secretary Miliband, in a phone call to brief Miliband on El Baradei's recent trip to Tehran, that El Baradei estimates there is now "zero percent" chance IRI would suspend enrichment and "twenty percent" chance of a freeze on enrichment ("freeze" not further defined). El Baradei said he was told Iran would be installing 12 new "research" centrifuges in Natanz "in due course," with the object of increasing centrifuge efficiency.

Contamination "No Longer an Issue"

13. (C/NF) El Baradei said that the "contamination issue" is "no longer an outstanding issue." FCO noted to Poloff that El Baradei did not call the issue closed, and that El Baradei said the Iranians had provided "plausible" answers on contamination -- El Baradei judged there are unlikely to be any more questions answered by IRI on contamination, making the issue in El Baradei's view "no longer outstanding." Miliband pushed back on contamination, calling this a "weak judgment" by El Baradei in light of the importance of the issue.

El Baradei's Timeframe: Late February

14. (C/NF) On the timeframe for Iran's report to the IAEA, El

Baradei said he expects Iran to report in "the third or fourth week of February." (Embassy comment: This is considerably beyond the 28 days initially announced by El Baradei. End comment.) FCO colleague told Poloff another (unidentified) FCO source says February 15 is the likely deadline for IRI response to IAEA.

¶5. (C/NF) Poloff received a readout of the El Baradei-Miliband call from FCO Counterproliferation Department Regional Head Isabella McCrae; McCrae had not participated in the phone call, but briefed Poloff based on what Foreign Secretary had told her of his telephone conversation with El Baradei.

Comment: UK Sees El Baradei As Biased

¶6. (C/NF) HMG had a skeptical view of El Baradei's pro-IRI inclinations before he left for Iran (ref). The above readout suggests that the skepticism was well-founded: the IAEA chief, in gauging for P5 1 governments the prospects of obtaining Iranian cooperation on suspension and transparency, may have come near to accepting his Tehran interlocutors' confident demeanor, and dispositive statements, at face value.

Visit London's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm>
Tuttle